Jackson13.info

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LaTeX MLA Package: MLA13 Documentation

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Contents

1 General Information

The MLA13 package is designed for LaTeXand allows users to easily format their papers into the proper MLA format that most classes use today. This package comes with a lot of functionality that allows the user to quickly and effortlessly turn a paper into MLA format without having to deal with any of the really hard code.

2 Installation

In order to install the package, you have to move the mla13.sty file into your local texmf folder tree. There are two ways of doing this: (1) download the install_mla13 executable file onto your mac and open it, or (2) simply drag and drop the mla13.sty file into its respective location.

To download the install script use the following url: `http://www.jackson13.info/mla13/install_mla13.zip`.
When the install script is run it will automatically create your texmf tree if you don't have one, download the .sty and documentation files, and place them in your texmf tree in their respective location. The documentation will be located in your doc folder.

To download the .sty file: `http://www.jackson13.info/mla13/mla13.sty`

3 Creating Your First Document

The mla13 package does not require that you use any other packages, though it allows you to do so. The packages that are utilized by mla13 are: geometry, babel, csquotes, biblatex, and color. In order to use the features provided by mla13, the first thing you have to do is to use the package in your LaTeXproject. To do this use the following command:

```
1 \usepackage{mla13.sty}
```

3.1 The Header

All MLA documents must contain the standard 5 line header that includes your name, professors name, class name, and the date the paper was written on. To do this, no formatting work is needed, the package just needs the values to be set and it will do all of the heavy lifting. To set the values of the variables follow the process below:

```
1 \firstname{Your First Name}
2 \lastname{Your Last Name}
3 \professor{Your Professor's Name}
4 \class{The Name of Your Class}
5 \title{The Title of Your Paper}
```

This will set all of the values for you and then once the values are set, the first line in your document should be:

```
1 \makeheader
```

The page header that exists on the top right corner will be created automatically and requires no command to start it. It will grab the value from the last name variable.

3.2 Paragraph Formatting

All paragraphs that are made within the paper don't need to have the paragraph mark before them because this package will treat every blank line separated section as a new paragraph and format it accordingly. For example,

```
This will be the first paragraph and it will be indented at 0.5in

This is the second paragraph
```

Paragraph formatting is standard and coincides with the measures put in place by MLA style. The font used in Times New Roman and is of size 12. In order to change the justification of the paper, you have 3 options: (1) left justification, (2) right justification, or (3) justified. Justified is the default because that is also the default setting when using LaTeX. If you would like to change the justification settings of your paper, use the following commands:

This makes the file right justified.

```
\raggedleft
```

This makes the file left justified.

```
\raggedright
```

Place either of those commands before the begin document section of your LaTeXfile and it will set it up accordingly.

3.3 Citing and Sources

This package uses BibTeX because it is the most commonly used for bibliographies. All of your sources should be kept in a .bib file and should be formatted to meet the BibTeX standards. To learn more about BibTeX and its features, look at this website `http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BibTeX`. Once your file is set up you need to tell mla13 which file to look at. To do this type the following before the begin document section of your LaTeXproject:

```
\sources{NameOfBibFile.bib}
```

This will do all of the initial work that needs to be done when setting up your bib file with your LaTeXproject.

To cite a source, the main command that you should use is the standard cite command. This is the one that fits with MLA citation style. Here is an example of how to use this command:

```
\cite{Name of Source} %This will make an inline citation of (Author)
\cite[Page]{Name of Source} %This will make an inline citation of (Author Page )
```

The last part of citing sources is creating the works cited page. MLA13 makes this process really simply by making it only 1 line of code. To create your works cited page, type the following right before the end document method.

```
\makeworkscited
```

3.4 That's It

If you followed all of the above directions, you should be ready to make your first MLA formatted LaTeXfile using MLA13. If you want to look at an example LaTeXproject using MLA13, check out the section called An Example Document that is next.

4 Changing the Date

If you want to use a date other than the current date, the only way is to manually input the correctly formatted date using the standard date attribute provided by LaTeX. For example, place the following before begindocument:

```
\date{5 February 2013}
```

This follows the format of MLA such that:

```
\date{DAY MONTH YEAR}
```

Otherwise, to use the current date, do not include the date field inside of your file.

5 An Example Document

Below is an example that uses MLA13 to create an MLA styled paper in LaTeX.

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{mla13}
\title{Grey Water Systems}
\firstname{John}
\lastname{Smith}
\professor{Dr. John Doe}
\class{Computational Science}
\sources{GreyWaterSources.bib}
\begin{document}
\makeheader
In a recent report by the United Nations, they found that more than 884
 million people do not have access to safe drinking water \cite{unWater}. This
  number equates to more than 1 out of every 8 people, not having access to
 something that is so vital to human life. Knowing this fact, most must ask
 themselves, why the same water that we drink is used to clean our toilets and
  wash our lawns. The water that hundreds of millions of people would love to
 have, is something that we just flush down the toilet. This paper intends to
 examine the benefits of grey water systems, and how their use leads to
 increased water conservation efforts, creating more benefits then costs.
\makeworkscited
\end{document}
```

6 Comments, Suggestions, or Anything Else

In order to contact us with problems or comments, or anything that you want to see in the next release email us at support@jackson13.info.